

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W  
-----035028 081658Z /47 R  
P 081440Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8353

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 3959

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SF, AFSP, PDIP  
SUBJECT: CUSTOMS AND TAX LIABILITIES FOR FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL

REF: STATE 177448

1. SPECIFIC AREAS AT EMBASSY PRETORIA WHERE STAFF PERSONNEL  
DO NOT ENJOY SAME CUSTOMS AND DUTY-FREE PRIVILEGES AS  
PERSONNEL ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. REGISTRATION OF PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES:

(1) POV'S BELONGING TO PERSONNEL ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST  
ARE REGISTERED BY THE EMBASSY WITHOUT HAVING TO PHYSICALLY  
TAKE THE POV FOR "ROAD WORTHY" CERTIFICATE, WEIGH-IN, ETC.  
DIPLOMATIC CORPS (DC) LICENSE PLATES ARE ISSUED FREE AND  
AUTOMATICALLY REGARDLESS OF CONDITION OF POV.  
(2) PERSONNEL NOT ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST ARE REQUIRED  
TO PHYSICALLY OBTAIN A "ROAD WORTHY" CERTIFICATE PRIOR TO  
REGISTERING THEIR POV. IN VIEW SEVERE REGULATIONS, THIS  
OFTEN REQUIRES MORE THAN ONE VISIT ( 20 MILES ROUND TRIP EACH  
VISIT) AND A CHARGE OF R7.00 IS LEVIED FOR EACH VISIT. AFTER  
OBTAINING THE CERTIFICATE, THE VEHICLE CAN BE REGISTERED AND  
LICENSE PLATES CAN BE OBTAINED. COST FOR REGISTRATION IS BETWEEN  
R20-50 DEPENDING ON TYPE AND WEIGHT OF VEHICLE. COST FOR LICENSE  
PLATES  
IS BETWEEN R10-30, ALSO DEPENDING ON TYPE, REGISTRATION CHARGES ARE  
PAYABLE EACH YEAR AND LICENSE CHARGES ARE PAID ONLY ONCE.

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POST ACTION: FOLLOWING AN APPROACH BY AFSA-PRETORIA TO  
THE EMBASSY, A DIPLOMATIC NOTE WAS SENT TO DFA ON MARCH 3, 1977  
REGARDING ISSUE OF REGISTRATION FEES FOR NONDIPLOMATIC  
PERSONNEL WHICH POINTED OUT NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL OF SA/EMBASSY  
IN WASHINGTON DO NOT PAY REGISTRATION FEES. ON MARCH 28, 1977, DFA  
ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF OUR NOTE AND STATED A FURTHER

COMMUNICATIONS WOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE EMBASSY IN DUE COURSE. IN A CONVERSATION WITH ONE OF THE EMBASSY'S POLITICAL OFFICERS ON APRIL 19, 1977, THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL ADVISED THAT OUR NOTE WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND WAS BEING STUDIED ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE EXEMPTIONS OF A SIMILAR NATURE. A CURRENT STATUS REPORTER IS BEING REQUESTED FROM PROTOCOL.

B. PETROLEUM PRODUCTS:

PERSONNEL ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST CAN PURCHASE GASOLINE FROM LOCAL VENDORS AND CLAIM, ON QUARTERLY BASIS, FROM DFA REBATE OF TAXES CHARGED. WITH THIS REBATE, THESE PERSONS ARE PAYING JUST OVER R0.19 PER LITRE. PERSONNEL WHOSE NAMES ARE NOT ON DIPLOMATIC LIST, IF THEY DESIRE TO PURCHASE FROM A LOCAL VENDOR, ARE PAYING R0.286 PER LITRE WITH NO REBATE OF TAXES. THE EMBASSY HAS A NON-APPROPRIATED FUND ACTIVITY WHICH OPERATES A GASOLINE PUMP. GASOLINE FROM THIS PUMP IS OFFERED TO ALL AMERICAN EMPLOYEES FOR R0.205 PER LITRE. THIS PUMP IS LOCATED IN ONE OF THE MOST CONGESTED AREAS OF THE CITY AND LIMITED HOURS OF OPERATION ARE INCONVENIENT FOR MOST EMPLOYEES. ASIDE FROM COST, THE CHIEF COMPLAINT FROM PERSONS NOT ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST IS THAT FACT THAT NO REPEAT NO GASOLINE CAN BE PURCHASED BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 1200 HOURS EVERY FRIDAY AND 0600 HOURS ON FOLLOWING MONDAY. FOR THE PURPOSE OF WEEKEND TRAVEL AND LEISURE, THIS RESTRICTS NON-DIPLOMATIC LIST PERSONNEL SEVERELY AND HAS CREATED A SEVERE MORALE PROBLEM. PERSONNEL ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DIPLOMATIC LIST ARE PROVIDED PERMITS THAT CAN BE USED DURING THE AFOREMENTIONED HOURS AT MANY SERVICE STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, PERMITTING NEAR FREE USE OF POV'S AT ANY TIME.

POST ACTION: NEGOTIATIONS ARE CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS WITH MOBIL OIL COMPANY TO ESTABLISH AN " EMBASSY ACCOUNT" WITH A LOCAL VENDOR IN A MORE EASILY ACCESSIBLE AREA OF THE CITY AND WITH OPERATING HOURS MORE COMPATIBLE TO THE DESIRES AND NEEDS OF THE EMPLOYEES. IN ADDITION, THE COST OF GASOLINE FROM THIS VENDOR WILL BE R0.1912 INSTEAD OF THE R0.205 FROM THE EMBASSY PUMP. THE ISSUE OF OBTAINING PERMITS NOW PROVIDED DIPLOMATIC LIST PERSONNEL FOR NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR WEEKEND TRAVEL AND LEISURE WILL IMMEDIATELY BE MADE BY A NOTE TO THE DFA.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W  
-----034357 081700Z /47 R  
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
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C. ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, FREE FOR PERSONNEL ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST, ARE MANDATORY COST FOR PERSONS NOT ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST:

ANNUAL TELEVISION LICENSE - R36 PER SET P.A.

ANNUAL RADIO LICENSE - R8.50 PER SET P.A.

ANNUAL DOG LICENSE - R3-10 PER DOG P.A.

(AMOUNT OF FEE DEPENDS UPON BREED, SEX, SPAYED, ETC.)

ANNUAL BICYCLE LICENSE - R0.50 PER CYCLE P.A.

POST ACTION: SEE POST ACTION UNDER A. ABOVE. POST WILL FOLLOW UP ON ALL ITEMS.

D. DUTY FREE ENTRY PRIVILEGES:

PERSONS ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST MAY IMPORT ANY/ALL ITEMS-- DUTY FREE-- FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR TOUR. PERSONS NOT ON DIPLOMATIC LIST ARE LIMITED TO A SIX-MONTH PERIOD COMMENCING ON DATE OF ARRIVAL AT POST.

POST ACTION: THE ABOVE SEEMS TO BE IN LINE WITH PARA. 1 OF STATE 43719 OF FEBRUARY 28, 1977 AND NO FURTHER ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME.

2. IMPACT OF DIFFERENCES: POOR AND UNACCEPTABLE MORALE IS THE CHIEF FACTOR. FINANCIAL FACTORS ENTER THE PICTURE WHEN CONSIDERING THOSE WHO EARN THE LEAST PAY THE MOST FOR LICENSE AND REGISTRATION FEES. FOR PERSONS NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST AND WHO ENJOY TRAVEL, CAMPING, VIEWING NATURE, ETC. DURING WEEKENDS ( FRIDAY NOON TO MONDAY MORNING), THERE IS NO REAL POSSIBILITY OF DOING SO DUE UNAVAILABILITY OF GASOLINE. ANY PLANNED TRIPS MUST BE ALWAYS MADE WITHIN THE RANGE OF ONE TANK OF GASOLINE. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS FOR THE EMPLOYEE TO TAKE LEAVE ON A MONDAY IN ORDER TO EXTEND A TRIP AND BE

ABLE TO PURCHASE GASOLINE FOR USE IN RETURNING HOME.

3. FOR CURRENCY CONVERSION PURPOSES: R1.00-\$1.1522. BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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